

IMMIGRATION IN FRANCE: FROM THE END OF THE WORLD WAR II TO THE PRESENT DAY

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France has always experienced strong immigration throughout its history ever since antiquity. Even today France has one of the highest immigration rates in Europe and the world. This paper deals only with the period from the end of the Second World War to the current period.

First wave of immigration

At the end of the Second World War, France along with the rest of Europe was a country ruined by completely rebuilding. Faced with this dire situation, with reduced economy and demographics have suffered greatly, France opened its borders to facilitate immigration and rapid restocking largely from its colonies. In the sixties, the colonial powers such as France, England or the Netherlands face the increasing power of nationalism and the will of the colonized peoples to selfsame.

Faced with pressure from Western powers and former Western countries also colonized in the past, shocked by this practice from another age are pressures on past colonial powers to abandon their colonies has often led to military conflicts.

To meet the urgent need of labor, linked to strong economic growth, France opens its borders and saves a massive influx of population from its former colonies Maghreb countries: Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and African black or Asian countries (Vietnam).

In 1945 the France otherwise known significant immigration from Spain then submitted to the Franco dictatorship.

Thus in 1968, more than 600 000 Spanish that are listed on French land. In France, in 1975, the foreign population is estimated at 4 million people or 7.5% of the total population. The foreign population has steadily increased in number and proportion.

From 1946 to 1974, the French population grew by 12 million people. Of this, net foreign immigration (including Algerians) for 20%, remittances of nationals for 10% and natural increase (including foreign children) to 70%.

The contribution of foreign immigration to the demographic balance is 14% for the decade 1946-1955, 21% for 1956 to 1965 and 30% for 1966-1973.

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Second wave of immigration

The first oil crisis in 1971 causes a severe recession in the French economy and the following year the French government is taking initiatives to control and limit immigration that previously found to be beneficial to the national economy.

The hardening of obtaining French citizenship, the strengthening of border controls in Europe and the economic difficulties faced by the France in recent years has promoted the development of illegal immigration in favor of a former immigration controlled.

From 1998 to 2002, the French Interior Ministry estimated that 90% of immigrants have come legally in the country. In 2005 and 2007, the number of illegal immigrants in France is estimated between 200,000 and 400,000.

Net migration between 2004 and 2013 decreased from 105 000 to 40 000. Comparing the rates of immigration to other European countries, it is relatively small and it is only 0.6 ‰ while it is about 4.9 ‰ Germany, which is 8 times higher.

Today, faced with rising unemployment and falling economic growth rates, immigration is rather badly perceived in France and generates strong reactions, particularly the rise of nationalism.

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